

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

GILES S. PORTER, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Federal Funds for Sanitary Projects

The Director of the California State Department of Public Health, Dr. Giles S. Porter, has written to the health officers of this State, urging them to make use of CWA funds on sanitary projects. The text of his letter to local health officers is as follows:

"It has come to our attention that several of the local health departments are endeavoring to secure CWA funds to undertake sanitary and rodent control projects. Some departments have already secured considerable funds and are launched on what should prove worth while work in rat trapping and poisoning, removal of rat harbors and food supply of rats, investigating the feasibility of rat-proofing, doing drainage work, cleaning up rubbish, inspecting housing conditions, inspecting and surveying water supply and sewage conditions in suburban unincorporated territory, etc.

One county health officer has deputized the men on this rat poisoning and trapping control work as health department inspectors, so as to give them ready access to premises. In the case of drainage work he secures releases from property owners before the men start work on private premises.

Other projects of a sanitary nature which the health officer might well stimulate are the following: around the city waterworks, pumping stations, reservoirs and wells, to cut weeds, repair fences, paint buildings, put concrete flooring in buildings, and well stations, ceil

the interiors and paint structures, grade the premises, build roadways and parking places and do landscaping. Materials, paint, etc., should be furnished by the city.

Similar work could be devised around sewage plants. Garbage dumps could be slicked up and made more sanitary by gathering up the stray rubbish and cans, burying and compacting the garbage piles, digging new garbage pits, building improved roads into them. Streets and alleys can be cleared of weeds, rubbish and cans.

Work such as the above is not work that is ordinarily provided for in city budgets and appears to be a proper line of work under these CWA funds. No doubt you might think of still other projects, more or less special in your territory.

The idea impresses us as worth while and if you have not thought of it, we would like to suggest you endeavor to help your people by contributing to relief work in this way.

We understand the requests are to be presented to the County Administrator, after the approval of the appointive officer or officers. The requests are made on sheets which are supplied by the Administrator, using one sheet for each project, which gives:

(1) Character of project; (2) man-days work; (3) number of inspectors or supervisors; (4) cost of materials and supplies. It appears that projects that

require a minimum of materials and supplies are preferred. Preferably, the materials and supplies used should be under 20 to 25 per cent of the total cost of the project.

It is also desirable to accompany these application forms with a letter describing in greater detail the nature of the project and its benefits. Should you feel that further support of a specific request you would make would be helpful, we would be most happy to receive a request to endorse it if proper, before the appropriate authority."

FUNDS FOR MOSQUITO ABATEMENT

Professor W. B. Herms of the College of Agriculture, University of California, Berkeley, has been appointed administrator over the expenditure of \$415,000 from the Civil Works Administration, to be spent for mosquito abatement in California.

At the Fourth Annual Conference of Mosquito Abatement Officials, to be held in Agriculture Hall, University of California, Berkeley, Tuesday, December 12, a symposium on the organization and expenditure of these funds will be undertaken. The entire afternoon will be devoted to a discussion of this proposed work and all mosquito abatement officials, supervisors, or other representatives of county governments are invited to attend. Students and individuals who are interested in mosquito abatement are also welcome.

Work under this fund is proposed to be performed in the following counties:

A—Northern Division—

Shasta, Tehama, Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Sutter, Yuba.

B—Central Division—

Sacramento, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Fresno, Tulare.

C—Southern Division—

Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego.

D—Coast Division—

Sonoma, Napa, Solano, Contra Costa, Alameda, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Monterey.

Men and women do not grow into adult success out of childish unsuccess. The child is in very truth father to the man. If we desire, as we do, to equip our children for a successful and happy life, we must realize the importance of making them successful and happy now, at the age of two or six or fourteen.—Aida de Costa Breckenridge.

NEW REGULATIONS COVER SOFT SHELL CLAMS

All persons who dig soft shell clams or who deal in them as wholesalers will be required, after January 2, 1934, to hold certificates which set forth the wholesomeness of the product. Uncertified clams in markets, stores, restaurants and other places will be subject to destruction. The new regulations of the California Board of Public Health upon certification of clams follow:

REGULATIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH GOVERNING THE CERTIFICATION OF SAFETY AND FREEDOM FROM POLLUTION OF SOFT SHELL CLAMS AND REGULATING THE DIGGING, HANDLING AND SALE THEREOF.

WHEREAS, There exists an imminent menace to the public health by reason of the large areas of salt water bays in California which are polluted by sewage and in which soft shell clams are dug, in large part for human consumption; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the following regulations be and hereby are adopted:

I. Any person, firm or corporation operating a soft shell clam bed or digging soft shell clams for sale as human food, or engaged in rehandling soft shell clams for sale to retail stores or as a wholesaler, must hold a certificate of safety and freedom from sewage pollution of such clams, issued by the State Board of Public Health. Each certificate so issued shall be revocable by the Board or subject to suspension by the Board or by the Director of the State Department of Public Health if the Board or Director deems that the clams are not or may not be safe and sufficiently free of sewage pollution under all the circumstances. If a certificate is revoked, it shall not be reissued within one year of revocation. Certificates are not transferable.

II. The applicant for such certificate or certificates shall file with the State Board of Public Health a written request therefor, accompanied by an accurate description and location map of each and every clam bed which he desires to operate or from which he desires to procure clams, and shall submit evidence as to the freedom of sewage pollution in the clams and shall also submit evidence (if beds are privately owned) of his right to dig or to procure soft shell clams therefrom. He shall also submit a signed declaration that he will not dig clams or handle clams from any other area, unless he shall have secured additional certificate therefor.

III. Purveyors or dealers in soft shell clams for human food shall not deal in or handle soft shell clams except when each lot of clams bears an unrevoked and unsuspended certificate. Each lot of clams shall bear a tag giving the name of the person certified to dig the clams or to rehandle them, and also the certificate number. Each purveyor and each dealer in soft shell clams shall also keep an accurate record of his receipt of soft shell clams showing from whom purchased, date of purchase and quantity purchased. And whereas such a large portion of the soft shell clams in the waters of California are polluted by sewage and whereas the testing of the clams for pollution is time consuming, it shall be deemed that failure to be able to show beyond a reasonable doubt that the clams are from such certified sources shall constitute prima facie evidence of the unfitness of the clams for human food and all clams on the premises shall be destroyed immediately for use as human food.

IV. Soft shell clams sold for bait purposes by persons or stores that purvey clams for human food, shall also be from certified sources and fit for human food. Otherwise, soft shell clams for bait shall not be handled.

V. Soft shell clams handled for bait, as in Bait Stores, shall be distinctly marked "CLAMS FOR BAIT ONLY AND NOT FOR HUMAN FOOD." Signs bearing the above language and consisting of letters at least four inches high, shall be placed outside the store and also inside the store in plain sight of customers entering the store, and also (smaller letters permitted) in close proximity to each pile of clams exposed to the view of customers.

VI. Clams intended for human food shall not be placed or kept in water which is polluted or unclean and clams so kept shall at once be destroyed for use as human food.

VII. Inspectors or officers of the State Department of Public Health or any local health authority shall have access to all parts of premises for the enforcement of these regulations.

VIII. Violation of these regulations is deemed to be a misdemeanor and violators may be punished accordingly.

IX. These regulations shall become effective January 2, 1934.

Adopted by the State Board of Public Health in Regular Session in San Francisco December 2, 1933.

THE CONQUEST OF TYPHOID FEVER

The successful warfare that has been carried on against typhoid fever during the past twenty-five years has resulted in a remarkable decrease in the incidence of the disease. Until recent years epidemics involving large numbers of people occurred with considerable regularity. Water borne typhoid fever outbreaks with their distinguishing characteristics were fairly common. In some cities where water supplies came from untreated surface streams an annual toll in typhoid illness and mortality was accepted with about the same degree of complacency that the annual tax levy is received. It was regarded as more or less inevitable. Explosive outbreaks due to infected milk supplies still occur occasionally but not often.

Typhoid epidemics recently have shown tendencies to depart somewhat from the classical type of epidemic that has been encountered during past decades. It is far more difficult to find the source of most typhoid fever outbreaks that occur today and there are undoubtedly well founded reasons for it. Food supplies, such as milk and vegetables, used to come from single sources in the immediate vicinity of the community. At the present time such supplies come from a large number of different sources and they may be transported over half the length of the State. Transportation by truck has facilitated the movement of such food supplies to central markets in metropolitan areas.

Furthermore, the change in systems of retail merchandising has changed the purchasing habits of the housewife, particularly in the large cities. Household purchases of food supplies which were formerly made in one or two stores are now made in many different stores and markets. The housewife is inclined to "shop" and to make purchases where the best bargains are offered. This makes it difficult to secure histories of purchases of food supplies and thus renders it extremely difficult for the epidemiologist to trace the source of a supply that is suspected of contamination. It is generally accepted, also, that there are at the present time more typhoid carriers at large and not under control than is realized generally.

Because typhoid fever has been reduced greatly in

its prevalence, many people have arrived at the opinion that it is not worthy of serious consideration. Nothing could be more fallacious. Eternal vigilance is essential in the provisions of safeguards against intestinal borne infections. Foods must always be produced under the most scrupulous sanitary methods if diseases of this type are to be kept under control. The present complex organization of food sales makes it difficult to be sure always, in all places, of the standards under which they are produced. The way of the epidemiologist who investigates typhoid fever outbreaks under these conditions is not easy. Proper sanitation of foodstuffs of all sorts becomes a matter of paramount importance. There should be adequate safeguards against the consumption of any contaminated products at all times and in all places.

DEATH COMES TO DOCTOR WILLIAM LE MOYNE WILLS

Dr. William Le Moyne Wills of Los Angeles, a member of the California State Board of Health for fourteen years, died at his home in San Marino on December 3. Dr. Wills was born in 1853 and came to Los Angeles in 1883. His father was an eminent attorney of Washington, Pennsylvania. Dr. Wills was educated at Harvard, Washington and Jefferson College and the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania. He was made professor of anatomy at the University of Southern California in 1885 and later became professor of clinical surgery in the same institution. He was one of the founders of the Children's Hospital in Los Angeles and took an active part in the City Board of Education and in other governmental activities. He was vice president of the State Board of Health from 1910 to 1912. He was succeeded as a member of the board in 1917 by Dr. Walter Lindley of Los Angeles.

Dr. Wills was a man of culture, a skilled surgeon, a wise physician, and a man who contributed greatly to civic progress in his city and in the State.

QUARANTINE ON MUSSELS IS LIFTED

With the end of November, the quarantine of mussels in California expired. The last quarantine order of the present year affected only the coastal area of Del Norte County. Earlier in the season the area from Monterey County to the Oregon line was under quarantine. The sale or offering for sale of mussels taken within the specified area was forbidden. All restrictions are now removed for the reason that shellfish, under laboratory investigation, reveal little or no toxicity.

MOSQUITO ABATEMENT OFFICIALS TO MEET

Following is a tentative program of the Fourth Annual Conference of Mosquito Abatement Officials, which will be held in Agriculture Hall, University of California, Berkeley, Tuesday, December 12, 1933.

Mr. E. A. Reinke of the Bureau of Sanitary Engineering of the State Department of Public Health is Secretary of the organization.

The program is as follows:

Morning Session:

1. Convene 9.15 a.m. Main Lecture Room Agriculture Hall.
2. Appointment of Nominating Committee.
3. "Life History, Habits and Control of the Tree Hole Mosquito."—Homer J. Lowe.
New experimental evidence regarding this vicious little pest.
4. "Experimental Work on Mosquito Transmission of Horse Encephalomyelitis and Human Encephalitis."—W. B. Herms.
5. "Light Traps for the Destruction of Insects."—J. J. Ellsworth.
Including a demonstration of traps being used commercially today.
6. Report of Nominating Committee.
Election of Officers.

Noon:

Lunch at Gold Room, Hotel Whitecotton, Shattuck and Center Streets, Berkeley, 12.15 p.m.
75c per plate.

Afternoon Session—1.45 p.m.:

7. Symposium on organization and expenditure of the \$415,000 Federal Special Fund for Mosquito Abatement in California under the Civil Works Administration.

MORBIDITY ***Diphtheria**

38 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Butte County 2, Los Angeles County 9, Glendale 1, Los Angeles 16, San Gabriel 1, Madera County 1, Salinas 1, Placentia 1, Riverside County 1, San Francisco 4, San Jose 1.

Chickenpox

258 cases of chickenpox have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as

* From reports received on December 4th and 5th for week ending December 2d.

follows: Oakland 18, Los Angeles County 26, Los Angeles 25, Pasadena 25, Orange County 11, San Diego 20, San Francisco 28.

Measles

162 cases of measles have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Oakland 38, Chula Vista 16, San Diego 80.

Scarlet Fever

164 cases of scarlet fever have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Los Angeles County 24, Los Angeles 58.

Whooping Cough

216 cases of whooping cough have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Albany 17, Oakland 24, Los Angeles County 18, Los Angeles 49, Riverside 11, San Francisco 15.

Smallpox

6 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Glendale 3, Los Angeles 2, Fullerton 1.

Typhoid Fever

27 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Jackson 1, Los Angeles 5, Monrovia 2, Gardena 3, Merced County 1, San Diego 11, Santa Barbara County 4.

Meningitis (Epidemic)

2 cases of epidemic meningitis have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 1, San Francisco 1.

Poliomyelitis

4 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 2, Monrovia 1.

Botulism

One case of botulism from Los Angeles County has been reported.

Food Poisoning

One case of food poisoning from Hawthorne has been reported.

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